



CENTRAL FLORIDA  
STEM ALLIANCE

# Leveraging the Uniqueness of Two-Year Colleges

Eda Davis-Lowe

VALENCIA COLLEGE



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# Issues Framing the Work

- Direction of education goals and transfer options
- Knowledge about STEM fields and careers
- Access to science-rich opportunities

# Core Efforts in the Work

- Dedicated STEM advising
- STEM awareness, association, and preparation
- Projective identity development
- Increased professionalization

# Launchpad of the Work

**DiRECT**  
**CONNECT**  
**TO UCF**

# Key People in the Work

## Dedicated STEM Advisors

**Supporting Your Path to a  
Bachelor's Degree and Career in STEM**

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SCIENCE · TECHNOLOGY · ENGINEERING · MATH

# Strategic Indicators for the Work

- Declaration of a STEM major
- Persistence rate
- Graduation rate
- Grade point average  $\geq 2.75$
- Co-curricular participation of students and faculty
- Associate degree transfers

# Highlights of the Work

- Enriched STEM environments
- Student and faculty engagement
- Individual student recognitions
- Bright Spot in Hispanic Education
- New student and faculty courses
- Alliance-wide programming
- Increased institutional capacities



# Lessons from the Work

- Regular, intentional conversations promote sustained vision and efforts.
- Shared goals and diverse approaches enhance system capacity.

# Plans beyond the Work?

- Sustaining dedicated STEM advising
- Maintaining college access and curriculum alignment initiatives
- Continuing STEM co-curricular and outreach opportunities

# Panelist's Information

Eda Davis-Lowe

[edavislowe@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:edavislowe@valenciacollege.edu)

321-682-4938

<http://valenciacollege.edu/lsamp>